

HOMESTEAD REBATE NEWS

New Jersey homeowners will begin to receive their 2013 Homestead Benefit application packets shortly. The Division of Taxation will be mailing applications over the next three weeks according to the schedule below. The deadline for filing is Friday, Oct. 30, 2015.

The Homestead Benefit application delivery dates by county are as follows:

| County | Delivery Expected to Begin |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic | Aug. 25 |
| Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon, Salem, Somerset | Aug. 28 |
| Bergen, Burlington, Cumberland, Warren | Aug. 31 |
| Morris, Ocean | Sept. 3 |
| <u>Atlantic, Essex, Monmouth, Sussex</u> | <u>Sept. 5</u> |
| Cape May, Union | Sept. 9 |

It may take the U.S. Postal Service several days to deliver applications throughout each county. Not every homeowner will receive their application on the day that delivery is expected to begin. Please do not call the Division about a missing application until at least one week following the expected delivery date for a particular county.

Using the same delivery schedule as for the printed application packets, the Division will send emails with instructions for downloading the 2013 application packet to homeowners who requested electronic applications.

With very few exceptions, homeowners must file their applications over the Internet or by phone. The application packet contains answers to most questions filers may have. Homeowners should read the instructions in the packet carefully, and if they meet the eligibility requirements, complete the worksheet in the packet before filing. Homeowners who have already sold the home that was their principal residence on October 1, 2013, or who plan to sell should pay particular attention to the packet instructions regarding sale of property to ensure they complete the application correctly.

The Homestead Benefit Internet filing application on the Division of Taxation website (www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/) and automated telephone filing system (1-877-658-2972) will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the filing period.

Homeowners may be eligible for the 2013 Homestead Benefit if they met the following conditions:

- Domicile (permanent legal residence) was in New Jersey.
- Owned and occupied a home in New Jersey that was their principal residence on October 1, 2013.
- Had New Jersey gross income for 2013 that was not more than \$150,000 for homeowners who were 65 or older or disabled, and not more than \$75,000 for homeowners who were under age 65 and not disabled. The income limits apply to a single individual, a married/civil union couple living in the same residence, and a married/civil union partner maintaining a residence separate from their spouse/civil union partner.
- The home was subject to local property taxes, and the 2013 property taxes were paid. (The State Budget requires that the benefit amount be calculated using 2006 property taxes.)

Because the State Budget limited eligibility for 2013 benefits for senior/disabled homeowners to those with New Jersey gross income of \$150,000 or less, and for nonsenior/nondisabled homeowners to those with New Jersey gross income of \$75,000 or less, many homeowners will not receive applications for 2013.

Most homeowners will receive their 2013 benefit payment as a credit on a future property tax bill. They can expect to receive a property tax bill or advice copy from their tax collector reflecting the amount of the benefit. Homeowners who indicated when filing that they no longer own the property or those whose principal residence was a unit in a co-op or continuing care retirement community will receive their benefit by check (or direct deposit).

Residents should not confuse the Homestead Benefit Program with the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Program. They are separate property tax relief programs with different eligibility requirements, different applications, and different filing schedules. Applicants can receive benefits under both programs if they qualify. The total amount of property tax relief benefits a homeowner receives, however, cannot exceed the amount of property taxes paid on their principal residence for the same year.

Homestead Benefit (for homeowners):

- To file applications by phone: 1-877-658-2972
- To file applications online: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/
- To ask questions: 1-888-238-1233 (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, except State holidays)
- In-person assistance at Taxation Regional Offices (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, except State holidays): www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ot1.shtml
- Online information: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml

Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement):

- To ask questions or to order an application: 1-800-882-6597 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, except State holidays)
- To check the status of a filed application: 1-800-882-6597
- To listen to information: 1-800-323-4400
- In-person assistance at Taxation Regional Offices (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, except State holidays): www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ot1.shtml
- Online information: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml

Text Telephone Service (TTY/TDD) for Hearing-Impaired Users: 1-800-286-6613 or 609-984-7300
Taxation email address for Homestead Benefit, Senior Freeze, and general tax questions:
nj.taxation@treas.state.nj.us